VZCZCXRO7330 PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH DE RUEHKO #0477 0620107 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 030107Z MAR 09 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1172 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUYNAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2711 RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5059 RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0512 RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3262 RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6501 RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8011 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2731 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4034 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3970 RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000477

## SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>OIIP KMDR KPAO</u> <u>JA</u>
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ AND GAZA DONOR
CONFERENCE

- 11. LEAD STORIES: Lead items on Tuesday morning included a plunge in the Dow stock index below the 7,000 mark during Monday's trading, as well as a new rescue package devised by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve for American International Group (AIG).
- 12. "Improvement of Security Most Important" On President Obama's announcement on a U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq, the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri insisted in an editorial (3/3): "A pullout will come just at a time when Iraq is confronted with a tough political challenge toward self-reliance. A withdrawal must not be allowed to end up aggravating the security situation. It must be processed cautiously while ensuring the safety in Iraq."
- 13. "Foremost Priority Should Be Given to Stability" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (3/3): "In outlining his plan for the U.S. force withdrawal from Iraq, President Obama again laid out his policy of holding dialogue with Iran and Syria. His quick actions, such as having Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Kerry meet with Syrian President Assad, are commended... However, potential sources of conflict still remain unchecked, such as religious and ethnic rivalries."
- 14. "Dim Prospects for Reconstruction of Gaza" On the donor conference held in Egypt on the reconstruction of Gaza, the liberal Asahi wrote (3/3): "During the meeting, donors pledged more than \$4 billion in total in aid for Gaza. However, given that Hamas and Israel did not take part in the confab, it remains uncertain whether the aid commitment made during the conference

will swiftly result in the actual delivery of relief goods for those in need in Gaza."

ZUMWALT